

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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Creators:	Becker, Kennard
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ENGINEER'S DAY

By KENNARD BECKER

THE ninth bi-ennial Engineer's Day was ushered in Friday, May 15, 1936, by a host of Engineering exhibits and the much anticipated float parade. The "big day" started with registration of the visitors at the Chemistry building. Open house was held in all the buildings throughout the day. The parade started at four P. M. and was led triumphantly by the crack Infantry Band. Every department of engineering was represented by its own original float.

The trek of the parade originated at Robinson Lab., continued past the Armory, and around the Oval. The Architectural Engineers, with their PWA satire, won the coveted Engineer's Day Parade trophy. Their architectural artistry was evident in the representation of a construction block as used in the Pyramids, mounted on skids and drawn by slaves under the whip of a slave driver. The block bore an inscription, "Pharoah's Works Administration," and several facsimiles of Egyptian sales tax stamps. Following the "project" came a slave borne litter in which rode the Egyptian queen.

Theta Tau, carrying their emblem on the top of the bed of a truck, depicted the elements of surveying, of electrical engineering, and of engineering drawing. The Agricultural Engineers traced the development of farm machinery from 1620 to the present day by the use of farm apparatus. Both Theta Tau and the Agriculturals received honorable mention from the judges.

The judges for the parade were Prof. James R. Hopkins, department of fine arts; Prof. Howard D. Smith, University Architect, and Prof. Ralph S. Paffenbarger, department of engineering drawing.

The description of the exhibits for each department is fascinating. The Architecture and Architectural Engineering departments located in Brown Hall, were prime to carry out their displays in an eye-design manner depicting Engineering History, professional practice in the various fields, small house models, a beneficial slum clearance for Columbus, and various campus projects from the University Architect's office. Also, in the basement of Brown Hall, there were numerous plans and projects to scrutinize. In Lord Hall, the Ceramic Dept. demonstrated clay refining, clay classification, ceramic body procedures, glaze preparation, color processes, decorative processes, enameling, ceramic researches by chart and diagram, and many exhibits of materials and testing apparatus.

The Chemical engineers held a unique display in the Chemistry Bldg. which included fractional distillation, evaporators and dryers, types of crushing and grinding, the separation of fine powders, oil testing, and various methods of filtering.

Quite a novel collection of machines and methods of testing was presented by the Civil Engineers in the basement of Brown Hall. Besides the demonstrations of surveying instruments, precise transits, and the models of tall building design, there were miniatures of belt and vibrator conveyors, concrete mixing machines, and a train which ran over a bridge and showed the points of compression and tension in the various members.

In Robinson Laboratory, the Electrical Engineers demonstrated the function of stroboscopic light; speech inversion and reversion; high voltage phenomena; photo-electric cell devices; thermionic control devices; visible speech, noise over light beams; chromium plating; illumination methods; and, coupled along with all this were induction furnaces, fever machines with ultra-frequency vacuum tubes, the amateur radio station W8NPW with a five meter transmitter, and a three phase alternating current motor.

The Mechanicals, in Robinson Laboratory, demonstrated the use of steam turbine generator, compound steam engines, uniflow engines, water wheels, centrifugal pumps, dynamometers, the wind tunnel, fans, metal testing apparatus, and different types of gearing.

Over in Lord Hall, the metallurgists had a composite display of common alloys; laboratory tests and classifications of metals by chart; and, microscopic testing of metals.

Also, in Lord Hall, the Mineralogists displayed the metallic minerals, gems, fluorescent minerals, and unusual minerals.

The Mining Engineers demonstrated the use of mine surveying instruments, types of coal; metalliferous ores, and the strategic methods of extraction and conversion of the ores.

In Ives Hall, the Agricultural Engineers showed the latest in power machinery, methods of electrification, land usage, buildings used in agricultural testing, and exhibits of farm products.

In the Industrial Engineering Dept., all the latest developments were shown in the pouring of the metals in the foundry, in the machine shop work, and in the welding and forging. In the night exhibit, tests were being run on the well known Thompson Grinder, and a host of tools, parts, and materials were on display.

Thanks, to the Engineering Council, the heads of the departments, and to the students; because this Engineer's Day was a huge success.

The greatest gift one can receive from his college training is the knowledge of his ignorance.